





time to water. This was merely guess-work on my part, but it happened to be the very thing my Dutch friend was about to enlighten me upon. He had evidently given the subject a deal of close study, for he was impossible upon a subject so abstruse, and simple, that would certainly glaze over glass if smeared with oil. This, however, only to a certain extent, because of the want-of-purchase-for-starting a "stroke." Glass being unyielding it would, he went on, be impossible to obtain the required "soft" for skating, although it might be possible for the skater to turn his own "skates" with a chisel, provided he was given a sufficient time to do so. I suppose it is well known that Juan Eden, Heine, and several other noted cyclists are also expert skaters, and their different feats were as familiar to my friend from Groningen as the performances of the Queen Crossland or B. W. Parry are to the Northern Hemisphere. Wales, however, the states used by them, and men are made in Holland, where a child is taught to skate almost as soon as it can walk. It has been my privilege to see Eden and Heine win many cycle races, but I have never yet seen them on ice. Not only do these Hollander beat us at skating, but it seems to me they are a long way in front of us as regards the manufacture of a pair of skates. They have, however, recently begun to make in way of anything of the kind I ever saw. By placing the feet on the sole of the skate, and folding over a couple of broad strips the fastening was at once accomplished, whilst a reversible blade for fast or fancy skating made up this perfect little gift of a skate. It was news to me that here all the fast skating done by Fish, Samson, Soo, M. S. and others was done on blades not much thicker than an ordinary tableknife, but such, I was assured, was the fact. If we happen to get a good, sharp winter, with plenty of skating to help it along, I may have an opportunity of seeing the Dutch champions.

## FOOT LITTLE WALES!

Very, very, the Northern Union hath a good deal to answer for, if I may be permitted to apply the words of the poet. The terrible appearance of the Welshmen, the Principality, and one cannot help feeling sorry for the few remaining enthusiasts who pin their faith to the cause of amateurism. A good deal has happened since the Welsh Union stepped in and suspended "Dai" and Evan Jones, the famous half-backs of the Swansea Club, and I am not sure that what has happened has been for the best. I have long cherished the hope that when the big struggle came between amateurism and professionalism in the Rugby game—for it is bound to come sooner or later, and probably sooner than later—we should find gallant little Wales fighting on the side of amateurism. When the brothers Jones were "hung up" for a certain offence everyone admired the courage of the Union, but having seen the attitude of the Welshmen towards the amateurs, there was no reason, in my opinion, why vindictiveness should be shown, and will remember pleading the cause of the Jannies in this column when I considered the proper time had arrived. Then we were confronted shortly afterwards with the Gold testimonial trouble, and now it seems to me that Wales is gradually drifting into professionalism. The "capture of Badges" of Llanelli by one of the clubs belonging to the Northern Union, is one of the most significant and sensational episodes of the season. It was the first case of "peaching," there might be grounds for hoping that steps would be taken to prevent further losses, but it has been only too apparent that the Welsh Union, and its officials, have not been doing their duty in this respect. If the captain of the player I have mentioned does not mean out and out professionalism I would like to ask what would be accepted as convincing evidence? It is all very well for us to hug the comfortable—doubtless that professionalism—has no chance of success, but if we look the facts fairly and squarely in the face we shall find that the real player is to-day with us, let them be tenanted, broken, or whatever you may. This double-headed amateurism and laissez-splitting by the Northern Union officials is enough to make the gorgo of an honest sportsman rise. Why not clean and healthy professionalism and have done with it! Much better this than the shifty, crafty, underhand methods adopted by the hypocritical time-servers who pose as club officials. I do not mean to say that the Welsh Union is not to be commended for its efforts to maintain the amateur spirit, and the salvation of Welsh football lies in one direction only, and that is the adoption of professionalism forthwith. The clubs are bound to do something of a decisive nature to check the degradations of that terrible parasite, the football "poacher," for if the captain of a team surrenders how can the rank and file be expected to hold out against the incitements of the curmudgeon and the brutes. But this, as it appears, is to-day with us, let them will have to take it either by the Llanelli club or the Welsh Union, but whether this happens or not I shall be quite prepared to hear at any moment that "poor" little Wales has led the way openly and honestly to professionalism.

## ROOF FOR ALL.

In certain quarters there appears to be a rooted objection to the paid player in any shape or form, and to mention professionalism to some persons is to bring down a stone on their head or a bill. For my part I have never flinched from my advocacy of the cause of the genuine amateur, and I have long and ardently admired the resolution shown by the Rugby Union in preserving the highest and best traditions of the famous school game. The world-wide professors have had "a long row to hoe," but they have never been very particular in their choice of men, and I do not believe that the bulk of them will be dimly conscious of the conspirators who have well nigh achieved their task. Candily, I would rejoice to see professionalism in the Rugby Union game legalised to-morrow. I know very well it is useless to expect Mr. Rowland Hill and his fighting colleagues to advocate anything of the kind, but they might do worse. But the Northern Union, and its hired shovels, are busily engaged in demolishing the old foundations, and while the upholders of true amateurism are being slowly but surely hustled into the back-ground, it may be well to tell them plainly that come what will—the paid player will not capture the Rugby game so completely as he has the Association game. Of course, I feel as fully convinced as that the world will fall to-night. What, however, would be the natural result of such circumstances, would be the formation of a party of Union League for professional clubs, and if our amateur organisations cared to meet any of the League teams so much the better. It is much too late in the day now to object to the presence of the "pro's" in sport, and once recognised, I see no reason why amateurs should not meet in friendly and precisely the same manner as the general public do in any other walk of life. There is plenty of room for all in the world of sport. What goes my soul, however, more than anything else again is the miserable "broken time" subterfuge. It is my candid opinion that there is not a single club in the Northern Union "running straight" at the present moment in the wages question.

## ASSOCIATION PROFESSORS IN CONFERENCE.

Having already had my say on the work of the Association, it is with no small degree of pleasure that I now turn my thoughts to the project to establish a professional union amongst Association players. The initiative, I understand, has been taken by players belonging to two of the most prominent teams in Lancashire, and shortly we may expect to hear of the great majority of "class" professionals being landed together for mutual protection. The same thing has been tried many times before, if I may be allowed to say, a little bit rolled up in one section and lead away another, until it is sufficient to strangle any possible organisation in its birth. It may be considered in many quarters that with this princely salary and bonus the football player of to-day is an individual to be envied, but he has his grievance it appears, and the object of this new Union is to adjust him to it. I can, I fear, a friend believe in combination union, if it can be got to work over. And while I hold myself free to express the opinion that the methods and practices connected with the transference of a player are absurd to the lay mind, I am conscious that good may result from a combination of professional players. When we reach a certain sum being offered for a certain player, with So-and-So becoming as a kind of make-weight, it sets one wondering how much the price of the player will rise. My "Dai" and "Evan" have moved, and had their being in the cotton plantations of the Far West. To my way of thinking the Football League ought to put a stop to such bartering and for all—Eight-months surely is not too long a period for a player to remain loyal to the club of his choice; if it is, then the sooner the game is rid of such a man the better.

## INTIMATIONS

## CUSTOMS NOTIFICATION, NO. 81.

**T**HIS OPIUM EXAMINATION OFFICE AND STATION OF THE KOWLOON CUSTOMS HOUSE will be CLOSED from the 20th to the 26th of January inclusive, in observance of the Chinese New Year's festival.

H. M. HILLIER,  
Commissioner of Customs  
for Kowloon and District.  
Custom House,  
Kowloon, 16th January, 1891. [233]

## SHIPPING REPORTS.

The British steamer *Bulwark*, from Batavia—  
6th Dec., Suez 14th, Colombo 6th Jan., and Singapore 6th, had fresh, monsoon and high seas to set in, 133 N.; from thence to port moderate to fair, 133 N.; to Macao 1st Feb., and so northward. *Bulwark*, from Sandakan 11th Jan., had moderate to light winds and no weather. First part of passage till 10 a.m. on the 16th inst., then to arrive strong N.E. monsoon and high seas; cloudy weather.

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Note Address—13, PRAYA CENTRAL.  
Hongkong, 18th January, 1891. [259]

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Lane, West Point.

Branch Office: HONAM, Canton.

CHU CHEW TING,  
Manager.

Hongkong, 30th April, 1891. [102]

## AMERICAN SYSTEM OF DENTISTRY

No. 39, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL,  
HADWICH K'N'W.  
(Late of Poore & Nobis),  
Hongkong, 13th July, 1891. [285]

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J. THURSTON,  
Manager, Hongkong.  
Hongkong, 27th October, 1891. [16]

CHINESE NEW YEAR HOLIDAY.

THE UNDERMENTIONED NAMES will be CLOSED for the Transaction of Public Business on SATURDAY, 22nd instant.

FOR THE CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA, AND CHINA,  
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Chief Manager.

FOR THE NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA, LIMITED,  
GEO. W. F. PLAYFAIR,  
Chief Manager.

FOR THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED,  
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J. G. AUGUSTIN,  
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T. H. WHITEHEAD,  
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FOR THE YOKOHAMA SAVING BANK, LIMITED,  
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C. H. Wilcock

HIROSHIMA MARY KOBE &amp; YOKOHAMA FRIDAY, 1st February, at NOON.

M. J. CHIOW SHANGHAI, JENSEN, SHIMONOKIET FRIDAY, 1st February, at 4 P.M.

OMI MARY NAGASAKI, KOBE &amp; YOKOHAMA MONDAY, 4th January, at NOON.

C. Young

YAMAGUCHI MARY SINGAPORE, COLOMBO &amp; BOMBAY TUESDAY, 25th January, at NOON.

S. Kawamura

SEATTLE, WASH., U.S.A. VIA KOBE THURSDAY, 27th January, at 4 P.M.

W. Thompson

YAMASHIRO MARY THURSDAY ISLAND, TOWNSVILLE, VILLE, KEPPEL BAY, BRISBANE, SINGAPORE, COLOMBO &amp; BOMBAY TUESDAY, 25th January, at 4 P.M.

J. Jones

MASSILLE, LONDON, NEW YORK, &amp; ANTWERP, V. SINGAPORE, FRIDAY, 28th January, at 4 P.M.

IRSA MARY FRIDAY, 28th January, at 4 P.M.

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A. S. MIHARA, Manager.

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